

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 /056 W

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R 290730Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T SANA 2622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: YAR ARRESTS COMMUNISTS

1. IN LAST TEN DAYS YAR HAS ARRESTED SULTAN AHMED ZAYD, HEAD OF ONE OF TWO OVERLAPPING COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN YEMEN. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE IN YAR SECURITY, 15 OTHERS WERE ALSO ROUNDED UP, INCLUDING AHMAD JUBRAN, THOUGHT TO BE THE LEADER OF THE OTHER COMMUNIST PARTY GROUP. SOURCE CLAIMS THAT YAR HAS "THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE" IN JAIL.

2. SOURCE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT COMMUNIST GROUPS IN YAR HAVE NEVER BEEN LARGE, WELL-ORGANIZED OR VERY ACTIVE, BUT SAYS THAT SULTAN AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE LONG BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE. SULTAN, WHO WAS DEPUTY HEAD OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, WAS NOT VERY WELL PLACED IN GOVERNMENT, SOURCE WENT ON, BUT HE WAS "FORMER ARMY OFFICER" WHO CIRCULATED FAIRLY WIDELY

AS LONG AS SULTAN AND HIS FRIENDS DID LITTLE MORE THAN TALK, YAR SECURITY DID NOT INTERFERE. IN EARLY JULY, HOWEVER, THEY BEGAN "PAMPHLETEERING" AND "ACTIVE PLOTTING".

3. AHMED ABDO SAID, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, CONFIRMED ABOVE AND ADDED HE THOUGHT 15 WOULD BE RELEASED SOON BUT GIVEN NO JOBS. (SULTAN WAS IMMEDIATELY REPLACED AT

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.) SOURCE IN

SECURITY, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT SOME QUESTIONS STILL HAD TO BE ASKED AND ANSWERED ABOUT LINKS OF GROUP WITH SOVIET EMBASSY. SOURCE SAID: "WE DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH EVIDENCE -- YET."

COMMENT: YAR SECURITY IS GETTING BETTER. ITS PROFESSIONALISM STILL LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED BUT THIS IS ANOTHER AREA WHICH HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE STABILITY AND DETERMINATION OF HAMDI'S RULE. YEMENI SECURITY IS WELL-LED BY MOHAMMED KHAMIS, A TOUGH AND HARD-WORKING COP. HE HAS A LITTLE SAUDI MONEY TO WORK WITH, A LOT OF YAR MONEY, AND SOME VERY VALUABLE BRITISH AND JORDANIAN HELP. RANKING YEMENIS COMPLAIN

REGULARLY AND SHARPLY TO EMBASSY THAT USG HAS DONE NOTHING TO TRAIN STAFF AND EXTEND OPERATIONAL REACH OF FLEDGING SERVICE, WHICH IS TARGETTED ON GROUPS WHICH INTEREST US: LEFTIST (ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH RADICAL ARAB OR SOVIET CONNECTIONS), TRIBAL TYPES LIKE ABU SHUWARIB AND SOUTH YEMENI OPERATIVES. NEVERTHELESS, THE EXISTING SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE PRODUCING A GROWING AMOUNT OF SOLID INFORMATION. IT IS ANOTHER BUTTRESS TO HAMDI'S REGIME.

RANSOM

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NNN

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